

## **GOVERNOR LINGLE ANNOUNCES REAL WORLD DESIGN CHALLENGE**

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**Partnership with U.S. Department of Energy to Provide Hawai'i Students with Hands-On Experience in Engineering, Aerospace**

For Immediate Release: October 8, 2008

HONOLULU – Governor Linda Lingle announced today that Hawai'i's students and teachers will receive free access to some of the world's most powerful design and mechanical engineering software as part of the national Real World Design Challenge (RWDC).

Hawai'i was chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy to be one of 10 founding states to launch this national education initiative. The other states are Kansas, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia and Washington.

The RWDC will challenge teams of teachers and students statewide to develop innovative solutions to significant technical problems as defined by the aerospace industry, such as designing a more aerodynamically efficient fuselage for planes that can reduce fuel consumption during flight.

Participation in the RWDC is open to all Hawai'i public, private and charter schools, and schools may field multiple teams. Each team will be provided with mentors from the Department of Energy's national energy laboratories, the Federal Aviation Administration and private industry partners.

Teachers supporting the student teams will have access to technical training and advanced engineering software that can be used to assist the students in developing their design.

Hawai'i's winning team will be flown to Washington, D.C. next spring to compete in a national design challenge with winning teams from other states.

Governor Linda Lingle emphasized the RWDC will help Hawai'i's youth obtain the critical science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills they will need to compete successfully in the global 21st century while helping transform Hawai'i's economy away from its over reliance on land development.

"We must ensure that our children are proficient in math and science, as well as core technology and engineering skills," Governor Lingle said. "The Real World Design Challenge will promote and enhance science, technology, engineering and math in our schools, which in turn will help us build a stronger, more innovative economy statewide."

"We believe the Real World Design Challenge provides an excellent opportunity for our State to significantly advance its goals to promote and support innovation, STEM education, and build a seamless pipeline from secondary schools to higher education and ultimately employment in STEM-related fields," said Theodore E. Liu, director of the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism. "It's a prime example of how government, private industry, and the education sector can collaborate to strengthen our science and technology workforce."

"The Real World Design Challenge bridges the needs of industry with the future of education," noted Dr. Ralph Coppola, director of worldwide education at Parametric Technology Corporation (PTC) and national administrator for the RWDC. "It teaches innovation, creativity, and collaboration using the expertise that government and industry have been perfecting for decades. Students will learn to innovate by engaging in the design process supported by science and engineering mentors from the federal agencies and industry, learning skills needed to keep Hawai'i and the United States economically competitive in the 21st Century."

The RWDC is being coordinated in Hawai'i through the STEM Workforce Development Program Office at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. For additional information, please contact Jeff Bloom, state RWDC coordinator, at 539-3824 or [stemwd@hawaii.edu](mailto:stemwd@hawaii.edu).

The RWDC is a public-private partnership between the State of Hawai'i and the U.S. Department of Energy, the Federal Aviation Administration, Parametric Technology Corporation, Hewlett-Packard Corporation, the Boeing Company, and Mentor Graphics (formerly Flomerics, Inc.), the Education Development Center and other private partners.

For additional information on the Real World Design Challenge, visit [www.scied.science.doe.gov/RWDC/index.html](http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/RWDC/index.html).

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